AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph starting on page 1 at line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Computers communicate using either serial data transmission or parallel data transmission. In serial data transmission, individual bits of data are transferred over a wire, one at a time. Parallel data transmission occurs when several bits are transmitted simultaneously, each along its own separate channel. If eight bits represent a data word being transmitted, then there must be at least eight distinct channels between the sender and receiver, plus as many additional channels as are required for control information. Although parallel transmission is universal within the computer for high speed data transfers on various buses, it is rare in environments outside that of the internal computer structure and connections between the computer and [[ands]] close peripherals.